

10/600,065

AF01169/AMDP975US

**REMARKS**

Claims 1-4 and 6-27 are currently pending in the subject application and are presently under consideration. A version of the claims is at pages 2-6. Independent claims 1, 17 and 24 have been amended herein to incorporate features previously recited in now cancelled claims 11 and 25. In addition, claims 1, 13 and 17 have been amended to cure minor informalities to address the Examiner's recent rejection. Entrance of these amendments is respectfully requested, as such amendments do not necessitate a new search, do not require undue effort on the part of the Examiner, and are provided to further prosecution. Favorable reconsideration of the subject patent application is respectfully requested in view of the comments and amendments herein.

**I. Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-12 Under 35 U.S.C §112**

Claims 1-4 and 6-12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the description requirement. In view of the amendments to independent claim 1 and the description in the instant specification at page 15, line 13 - page 16, line 2 and corresponding Figure 8, this rejection is now believed to be moot and should be withdrawn.

**II. Rejection of Claims 1-4 and 6-23 Under 35 U.S.C §112**

Claims 1-4 and 6-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In view of the amendments to independent claims 1, 13 and 17, this rejection should be withdrawn.

**III. Rejection of Claims 1-14 and 17-26 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)**

Claims 1-14 and 17-26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Le *et al.* (US 6,690,602). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. Le *et al.* does not disclose all features of the subject claims.

A single prior art reference anticipates a patent claim only if it *expressly or inherently describes each and every limitation set forth in the patent claim.* *Trintec Industries, Inc. v. Top-U.S.A. Corp.*, 295 F.3d 1292, 63 USPQ2d 1597 (Fed. Cir. 2002); *See Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631,

10/600,065

AF01169/AMDP975US

2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). The *identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim*. *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989) (emphasis added).

The claimed invention relates to a core-based multi-bit memory having a dual bit dynamic referencing architecture fabricated on a memory core comprising a plurality of data cells. In particular, independent claims 1, 17 and 24 recite similar limitations, namely, a multi-bit memory core including a plurality of data cells for storing data; and first and second reference arrays of a plurality of multi-bit reference cells fabricated on the memory core, *the first and second reference arrays including corresponding reference cells that are interweaved among the plurality of data cells*. *Le et al.* does not disclose such novel features of the subject claims.

*Le et al.* relates to a system having a memory array and associated reference arrays. The cited reference provides for a method of monitoring the aging of data cells by comparing the value of a cell within the memory core with averaged data from two reference cells within a single reference array. On page 7 of the Final Office Action (dated April 4, 2006) with regards to now cancelled claims 11 and 25, the Examiner incorrectly asserts that Figure 4 of the cited reference teaches *the first and second reference arrays including corresponding reference cells that are interweaved among the plurality of data cells*, as in the claimed invention. At the indicated portions, *Le et al.* shows a core cell and two reference cells, and further discloses that data from the core cell is compared to an average value of the two reference cells during programming/erase verification procedures. However, Figure 4 of *Le et al.* does not address the placement of the reference cells amongst the core cells. The cited reference further shows a sector of core cells and two reference arrays (*See* Figure 3). While both the core cell sector and the reference arrays include multi-bit data cells, the reference does not teach that data cells of the reference arrays are interspersed amongst the core cells. As a consequence, the cited reference does not provide for the more accurate representation of the reference voltage to the core data cells as the claimed invention affords *via the first and second reference arrays including corresponding reference cells that are interweaved among the plurality of data cells*.

Moreover, independent claim 13 further recites first and second reference arrays of a plurality of multi-bit reference cells *fabricated on the memory core interstitial to the groups of data sectors*. *Le et al.* does not provide such an arrangement; instead, as noted above, while *Le*

10/600,065

AF01169/AMDP975US

*et al.* shows a sector of core data cells in the same memory array as two reference arrays with corresponding reference cells, the cited reference does not show that the reference cells are interweaved amongst the core cells. Similarly, the cited reference does not disclose disposing reference cells interstitial to two core data cell sectors, as afforded by independent claim 13.

In view of at least the foregoing it is readily apparent that *Le et al.* does not teach the identical invention in as complete detail as is contained in the subject claims. Accordingly, this rejection with respect to independent claims 1, 13, 17 and 24 (and the claims that depend from) should be withdrawn.

**IV. Rejection of Claims 16 and 27 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 16 and 27 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Le et al.* in view of *Kurihara et al.* (US 6,791,880). Applicants' representative respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection for at least the following reasons. The subject claims depend from independent claims 1 and 24. As discussed above, *Le et al.* does not teach, disclose or suggest applicants' invention as recited in such independent claims; and *Kurihara et al.* does not make-up for the aforementioned drawbacks of the primary reference. Accordingly, this rejection should be withdrawn.

**V. Rejection of Claim 15 Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Le et al.* in view of *Ferrant* (US 6,538,942). This rejection should be withdrawn for at least the following reasons. The subject claim depends from independent claim 1. As noted above, *Le et al.* does not disclose or suggest all features of independent claim 1, and *Kurihara et al.* does not compensate for the drawbacks of the primary reference. Therefore, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

10/600,065

AF01169/AMDP975US

CONCLUSION

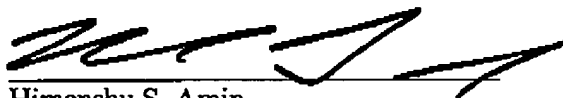
The present application is believed to be in condition for allowance in view of the above comments and amendments. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

In the event any fees are due in connection with this document, the Commissioner is authorized to charge those fees to Deposit Account No. 50-1063 [AMDP975US].

Should the Examiner believe a telephone interview would be helpful to expedite favorable prosecution, the Examiner is invited to contact applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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